

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – MAY 18, 2010

The regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on May 18, 2010. Chairman Fritchey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Park & Recreation Board: David Fritchey, Chairman  
Henry Carpenter, Vice Chairman  
Patricia Bunn, Secretary (joined meeting in progress)  
Dave Gordon, Member  
Andrew Newbon, Member  
Dennis Wysocki, Member (joined meeting in progress)

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
Donna Liney, Recreation Director

Absent: Fran McDonald, Park & Rec Member  
Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carpenter moved, Mr. Newbon seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2010 as written.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL OF GARDEN CLUB  
FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT XI TO PURCHASE BLUE STAR  
MEMORIAL TO INSTALL AT MEMORIAL PARK

Ms. Lee Gittens was present and stated the National Garden Club has taken on sponsorship of the Blue Star Memorial. She stated the Blue Star Memorial started in World War I; and if you had a person in the service, there would be a blue star in your window. She stated if that person were wounded and came home, there would be a silver star, and if they died in action it would be a gold star. She stated the National Garden Club has taken this up and designed a Blue Star Memorial Marker, a sample of which was provided in the Board's packets. She stated the goal is to have these across the Country not necessarily in cemeteries but in public areas to increase awareness of the gratitude for those in the services. She stated they are proposing to install this in the picnic area at Memorial Park. She has discussed this with Ms. Saracini and

Ms. Lashchyk. Ms. Gittens stated this will be simple to install and would take approximately a day to install. They would propose minimal planting around it. She stated there is a protocol for the ceremony to dedicate it.

Mr. Wysocki joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gordon asked if they considered having this at the Veteran's Park, and Ms. Gittens stated they while she is aware of the proposal for Veteran's Park, they are proposing that this be installed at Memorial Park.

Ms. Liney stated the preference of the Garden Club was to have this at Memorial Park. She stated there is a Scout who would be willing to do this project.

The Park & Recreation Board was in favor of this proposal, and Ms. Liney will work with Ms. Gittens on this.

Ms. Bunn joined the meeting at this time.

#### PAA FIELD UPDATE

Mr. Bo Birkhead representing PAA was present. He stated PAA uses ten Township fields as well as the School District fields. He stated they do not get much help from the School District, but commended Ms. Liney and her crew for their help with the Township fields. Ms. Liney stated it has been great working with this dedicated volunteer organization.

Mr. Birkhead stated their enrollment is up this year not including the Senior Babe Ruth Team which has been brought back into play and a Classic League Team which is 19 and 20 year old players.

Mr. Birkhead stated the water at the softball complex is working at every field because of what the Township has done. He stated at the Roelofs Complex Mr. Copson worked with them and found that a pressure valve was not open, and there is now water at all three fields. He stated the grooming machine that was purchased is being used effectively. He stated the Township staff has responded quickly to all their requests.

Mr. Birkhead stated there has been a lot of discussion lately about the need for additional fields. He stated there is still a need for new fields as they have gone from 120 players per field to 130 players per field in a short amount of time. He stated he feels the organization will continue to grow. He discussed the very successful Opening Day activities. Mr. Birkhead stated he understands the engineers are looking at fields for the Samost Tract, and they need these fields as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fritchey stated the Park & Recreation Board is in support of the request for additional fields, but they are not the final decision makers; and this decision needs to be made by a majority of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Fritchey stated Mr. Birkhead's comments on their needs are recorded in the Minutes. Ms. Bunn stated building new fields is not a fast process; and if they were given approval tomorrow to proceed, it would probably be two years before they could be playing on these new fields. Mr. Birkhead stated he understands this. He stated Newtown Township has recently constructed new fields, and they only have 60 players per field. Mr. Birkhead asked if the Park & Rec Board is confident that this will move forward. Mr. Fritchey stated the Park & Rec Board is in favor of the construction of additional fields because of the overuse on the current fields. He stated it is important that the organizations continue to lobby the Board of Supervisors to request the additional fields. He stated the Park & Rec Board has continued to put this before the Board of Supervisors but it must be apparent to the Board of Supervisors that there is a wellspring of support for these additional fields. Mr. Wysocki stated the Park & Rec Board will continue to identify the need for fields for all the athletic organizations; but they do not have the final approval.

Mr. Birkhead stated PAA continues to do positive things as an organization. He stated they are raising money through sponsors to have their Championship Games for softball and baseball on the radio live through WBCB.

Mr. Carpenter stated the Park & Rec Board is equally frustrated since they have been working on this for decades. He stated the more people who remind the Board of the need for these fields, the better. He stated figures such as cited earlier by Mr. Birkhead about the number of players per field compared to other Townships is what needs to be conveyed to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Birkhead stated the Township has wonderful facilities and he particularly noted Memorial Park. He stated they are beginning to have picnics for the softball families at that location and using the field in the back of the Park.

Mr. Wysocki commended Mr. Birkhead for generating so much excitement at PAA particularly at the younger levels. Mr. Wysocki stated he recognizes the problems with scheduling and appreciates the work they are doing. Mr. Birkhead stated they have been able to play the next day after the rain, and the grooming machine has helped with this situation since last year it could take three days to be able to play after a rain. Ms. Bunn asked the cost of the grooming machine, and Mr. Birkhead stated it cost \$15,900 and was paid for by PAA. Mr. Birkhead stated they are looking to do more tournaments. He stated they are also looking into building an indoor hitting facility for PAA.

Ms. Bunn noted a number of Grants which may be available. Mr. Birkhead stated a Township resident lost his son this year, and he would like to be a part of this facility. He stated a committee is working on this, and are considering a facility the size of the Edgewood Fire House to be located behind the concession stand. Mr. Birkhead stated they could charge each family \$75 a year to use this facility so that Township residents would not have to use facilities outside of the Township. He stated based on the size of PAA, they are number 1 in the State, number 4 in the Mid-Atlantic region, and close to 20 in the Country for Babe Ruth. He stated if they were to build this indoor facility, they could hold their meetings there, hold the drafts there, and house some of their equipment.

#### TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Garden of Reflection electric and lighting upgrade project was put out to bid, and bids came in higher than anticipated; and they plan to reject all bids. He stated he has met with the engineer, have made some adjustments, and will put it back out to bid. He feels the bids will come back more realistic. He stated they have come to an understanding with the original contractor, and there is \$40,000 left for the Township; and while they anticipate the ultimate bid will be higher than that \$40,000 it is because they have added some upgrades. He stated the fountains are on since that circuitry is independent from that which needs work.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Liney stated this is a very busy time of year in Park & Recreation. Over fifty spring permits have been issued to date for reservations in the Park system to Township residents, area schools, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and local organizations.

Ms. Liney stated the Township staff is readying the pools for opening in ten days and continues to provide services to the residents such as mowing, facility maintenance, raking and dragging fields for play. Kids Kingdom playground staining was completed last week, and the addition of wood carpeting to the playground will be completed by the end of May.

Ms. Liney stated that Yardley Makefield Soccer recently completed the annual Epic Girls Soccer Tournament. The Tournament hosted over 200 girls teams, with approximately 3,000 participants plus spectators enjoying the Township parks over Mothers Day weekend. She stated the Township would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation of all the support services provided by the volunteers at YMS to make this Tournament a success. She stated the volunteer staff did a great job and worked hard to keep the trash under control in difficult conditions with 50 mile per hour winds during

this event. She stated they are sensitive to the needs of the community; and while there may have been some paper taken by the wind, in the grand scheme of things the volunteers did a great job. She stated there was a minor breakdown in communication as far as parking in the border neighborhoods; and after discussions with all involved, she is confident things will continue to go smoothly for future events.

Ms. Liney stated the Lower Makefield Seniors Group has had ongoing meetings with the Township's Citizens' Budget Committee and continues to work toward the goal of raising funds for a Senior Center in Lower Makefield.

Ms. Liney stated residents are looking forward to the annual Lower Makefield Farmers Market which is scheduled to open this Thursday, May 20 in Veterans Square. She stated this is the fourth year of operation for the market which typically draws several hundred people each week to purchase local produce and wares in support of the area farmers. The Market has a new Manager, this year, Lower Makefield Township resident Noa Kuzma, who will be coordinating with the Township and the Bucks County Foodshed Alliance to host farm vendors in and outside the Township.

Ms. Liney stated she received a written request this afternoon from a Pool member about a problem with her membership with regard to the Discount Period, and that individual is asking that she be charged the \$395 amount rather than \$440. This was acceptable to the Park & Recreation Board.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS DISCUSSION

Mr. Wysocki asked if there has been any further consideration for special events such as Community Pride Day; and Ms. Liney stated there are no scheduled events in the Budget, but there was no tax increase this year as non-essential expenditures were removed from the Budget. Mr. Gordon stated he feels people will be disappointed since it was well attended and people enjoyed this event. He stated he feels most people do not know that this event will not be occurring. Ms. Liney stated she has received at least two dozen calls already from people indicating how much they enjoyed this event. Ms. Liney stated all the Special Events – Community Pride Day, Veterans' Parade, and spring movie were removed from the Budget. Mr. Gordon asked the cost to the Township for Community Pride Day, and Ms. Liney stated expenditures were \$40,000 and sponsorship revenues were \$30,000 plus the overtime costs. Mr. Gordon asked how many residents they estimate attended this event, and Ms. Liney stated the estimates were between 10,000 and 15,000. Ms. Bunn asked about the possibility of charging an admission fee, and Mr. Gordon agreed he feels there could be a family admission. Ms. Bunn asked if a recommendation should be made to the Board of Supervisors on this since she feels there will be a lot of "back-lash," as they get close to Labor Day. Mr. Gordon stated he does not feel people know that it is not happening, and it has become a very popular event.

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He feels given the amount of people who come, they could probably make up the \$40,000. Mr. Fritchey stated he feels if there is a “push-back” from the residents, the Board of Supervisors may consider putting money for this back into the Budget in the future. Ms. Bunn stated maybe the Board of Supervisors has not considered charging an admission and if people want to attend this, they would have to pay for it. There was discussion as to whether to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they consider a fee for admission to attend Community Pride Day.

Mr. Carpenter stated he does feel there should be something put on the Township Website that the Park & Recreation Board discussed the fact that they were concerned that Community Pride Day is not being held this year. Mr. Fedorchak agreed to put something on the Website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bunn, Secretary